

# Making Lemonade Out of Lemons



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出版者:University of Illinois Press

出版时间:2006-7-17

装帧:Hardcover

isbn:9780252030819

Out of the "lemons" handed to Mexican American workers in Corona, California - low pay, segregated schooling, inadequate housing, and racial discrimination - Mexican men and women made "lemonade" by transforming leisure spaces such as baseball games, parades, festivals, and churches into politicized spaces where workers voiced their grievances, debated strategies for advancement, and built solidarity. Using oral history interviews, extensive citrus company records, and his own experiences in Corona, Jose Alamillo argues that Mexican Americans helped lay the groundwork for civil rights struggles and electoral campaigns in the post-World War II era.

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